

PHCAG general meeting 9-9-15

sign up sheet on last page

Willamette Cove update: Katy Weil, Metro and Dwight Leisle, Port of Portland

Katy: Hazardous top soil material will be shipped to Arlington in Wasco County, 99 mi away. Orange plastic fencing is already up & should alert the public to a problem. We depend on you citizens to offer info to others. 30 day notice went out to boat people and they will have to move. We've been concerned about more people camping too. There are new, larger signs at the site that say "no Public Access." There are several. Sign posts are wood and set in concrete.

Dwight: We plan to mobilize the site on Oct 5 should be complete in November, 6 weeks of work weather permitting. It's at RM . We're removing the most contaminated soil. This won't be the last of the actions on the site. They are still working on a FS for the site. 5,000 cu. yards will be removed. The removal will try to preserve as many trees as possible. Future use = natural area.

Contaminants found at Willamette Cove: PAHs, metals, dioxin, due to past industrial activity.

Truck emissions controls: - low sulfur diesel; - Restrictions on idling

Soil containment controls: - lined and covered trucks; - wheel wash at site exit; - truck inspections

We don't know the exact haul route yet. There will be about 20 trucks/day, M-F, 9-3pm. There will be signage on both sides of Willamette Blvd. Truckers are being asked to use highway systems.

Option 1) north on Willamette, turn right on Richmond, turn right on Lombard (Hwy 30 designation) head east.

Option 2) north on Willamette Blvd, cross the bridge to St. Helen's Rd/Hwy 30. Head east.

PHCAG members prefer they take the designated truck route: north on Lombard to Brugard, around the horn to N Columbia Blvd to head east on the actual truck route.

Draft Community Superfund Recommendations

facilitated by Jim Robison w/comments by PHCAG members

#1 The clean up goal is a healthy lower Willamette River for fish, wildlife, and humans. Until the goal is met, ensure that efforts to discourage fishing are culturally appropriate and have been discussed with community organizations and tribes.

PHCAG comments: Fishing is cultural often and hard to discourage. People should be able to fish safely.

#2 We do not support any clean up methods that leave contaminants in or

adjacent to the river. Contaminants left in the river will continue to harm river life, wildlife and humans and should be removed and/or treated.

PHCAG: Seasonal scouring makes capping/natural recovery unreliable. Capping depends on signage & people obeying signage not to anchor, avoid prop wash etc. That tends to be unreliable also.

Another example: monitored natural recovery leaves contaminants in the river that will eventually recontaminate or spread downriver. It remains highly controversial and has not been demonstrated to be effective on chemicals that do not degrade and in a system like the Lower Willamette River. Monitored Natural Recovery should possibly have it's own recommendation point since it's been heavily championed by industry.

Recognizing the difficulty in removing all contamination as a goal, other steps are needed: 1) take remediation measures to prevent exposure of humans and ecological receptors / animals to site contaminants; and 2) monitor the clean-up during and after to insure that the remediation is implemented and operating as expected to achieve the goals.

#3 Consistent control of upland pollution sources, both onsite and upriver, must be in the final cleanup order.

PHCAG: This should remain a focus but we have also seen inconsistent info from DEQ. Only zoning changes at sites such as the Steel Hammer property just south of the BES Lab trigger a study of contaminants by DEQ. There is so much PCB, PAH, heavy metal contamination via due diligence testing at Steel Hammer, no agency wants to touch it. Yet DEQ continues to say there is no problem w/groundwater or adjacent river. What about all sites that remain zoned manufacturing?

#4 A Human Health Impact Assessment is needed to better inform the clean up. Cumulative impacts of pollution exposure in adjacent neighborhoods needs to be better assessed.

#5 In setting water quality goals, protect drinking water exposure pathways. The cleanup alternatives will need to achieve compliance for all the standards including drinking water and protect aquatic life, both resident and seasonal.

PHCAG: We should protect wells on Sauvie Is. Due to drought, we may need Willamette River as a water source also. The river should be cleaned to a high standard.

#6 Require restoration of any loss of fish and wildlife habitat during and as a result of the clean up. An example would be white sturgeon habitat that would be destroyed and degraded by a Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) or waste dump at T4.

#7 To minimize air and water contamination during the clean up, require independent air and water monitoring in real time and an action plan to change remediation activities in order to limit exposure in case of excess contamination.

#8 Restoration projects funded by NRDA (Natural Resourced Damage Assessment) to increase salmon habitat should not destroy other animal habitat. There are sites with poor habitat value that could be upgraded instead. Examples of existing habitat that could be harmed are critical red-legged frog habitat at the PGE site in Linnton and bird habitat on West Hayden Island.

PGE rep: We are trying to balance the two species' needs. Some of the tribe trustees want to emphasize salmon and ODFW wants to emphasize frogs. We are willing to continue the discussion and could have another meeting at Linnton.

#9 Incorporate pilot projects using emerging technologies both in-river and out-of-river. PHCAG: such as bioremediation

#10 Ensure that financial tools are in place to cover possible recontamination events. PHCAG: An example would be surety bonds based on inflation to address recontamination over the long-term.

#11 Hire from local communities and educational institutions to work on the clean up. Follow the Davis-Bacon Act by paying prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area.

#12 Establish a Pollution Prevention & Mitigation Fund of 2.5% of clean up costs for as long as the site's ecological and human health impacts last due to contaminants left in the river.

#13 There needs to be more detailed and site-specific data on all aspects of the clean up based on methods such as computer modeling and on-the-ground monitoring.

#14 Because the clean up must last into perpetuity, the phrase "long-term" in the Feasibility Study and clean up order should not refer to anything less than "in perpetuity."

PHCAG: another point to add: remedies should be subduction earthquake-ready just as buildings are required to be earthquake proof.

Deb Edwards from Exxon Mobile asked to speak

(Exxon Mobile has not participated in the Lower Willamette Group or in discussions with PHCAG or EPA for the last 13 years of the project until now)

It was a repeat of presentation at Steering meeting, i.e., they have discovered through photographing the bottom of the river, that it has improved since 2000 and ascribe this to so-called "natural recovery." They say there has not been much testing near their old property site that has been sold to New Star. They still have a lube site though. They also did random testing of river sediments and would like to present that info to many

groups & come back to present to PHCAG. They have a professor from UCLA that is "objective." They feel stirring up the sediments would be very harmful. They would like to have a citizens group to work with and would like it to be the PHCAG. If not, they will find other citizens and bring them "up to speed."

Q: How much is Exxon Mobile's international gross annual profit?

A: I don't know off hand, but I can get that info for you.

Q: When is your company going to start including in its accounting restoration funds for environmental harm as a result of its activities?

A: We do

Deb: The public is going to end up with a big bill because many of the PRPs are public agencies.

Q: Why would the citizens have to pay for chemicals they did not put on the bottom of the river?

Debra: We didn't either

Adjourn 8pm

PHCAG Sign in

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